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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There are provided an intra-field dispersion value detecting portion for detecting each of the intra-field dispersion values in each field image; an intra-field average DC level detecting portion for 5 detecting each of the intra-field average DC levels in each field image; and a host CPU for detecting the presence or absence of an occurrence of a fade change based on a change of the detected intra-field dispersion value and a change of the detected intra-field average DC level. In this manner, there can be provided an image change detecting apparatus 10 capable of precisely detecting a fade change contained in image information to be encoded upon encoding using an MPEG system.